



STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

B. PATRICK BAUER
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2796

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

July 28, 2006

The Honorable Steve Carter
Indiana Attorney General
200 W. Washington St., Rm. 219
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Attorney General Carter:

I write to you today to implore you to aggressively investigate gas price gouging in this state. With reports in the media of record profits being earned by big oil companies (some are earning \$80,000 per minute, which is more than the average American family earns in one year), it is time something is done to address this problem. Many Hoosiers are being hit hard by these high gas prices and there is no end in sight.

Profits for major oil companies have gone up more than 30% in the past year. Curiously the cost of a gallon of gas has also gone up more than 30% over that same time!

In general, you are allowed to investigate gas price gouging when two or more stations raise their prices at the same time. We are all aware that the price of gas fluctuates during the week. It usually ticks up on Friday and is back down on Monday. Most of us can tell that the price of gasoline in geographic regions is usually the same. Why does the price go up at certain times of the week? Why are all the prices almost exactly the same in an area? I think the time has come for you to investigate this practice.

As you know, you are also allowed to investigate price gouging when the Governor declares Indiana in a state of emergency. The current price of gasoline across this state is a drain on our economy and is creating a state of emergency. In a recent appearance in Evansville, you said your office is monitoring the price of gasoline and on the lookout for price gouging. You are aware of the problem and the concerns that are being expressed by people across this state. I urge you to meet with the Governor at the earliest time of convenience to convey the importance of this issue to him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Patrick Bauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

B. Patrick Bauer
House Democratic Leader